

THE MORTAL KOWP

MARVEL

6

LGY#792

RATED T+

EWING • FERRY • MILLA

**“MIDGÂRD’S VEOR IN HIS
RAGE WILL SLAY THE WORM.”**

**- FROM “VÖLUSPÂ, THE VALA’S PROPHECY,”
THE ELDER EDDAS OF SAEMUND SIGFUSSON**

I AM
DEAD, SIGURD
JARLSON.

I AM DEAD,
AND YOU ARE
NOT ME. YOU
HAVE NOTHING
OF MINE...

...BUT YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
OF YOURS. AND IF THE
SERPENT CANNOT
CLAIM IT, HE WILL
KILL YOU.

DO NOT
LET HIM
CLAIM IT. DO
NOT LET HIM
KILL YOU.

YOU MUST
SURVIVE, SIGURD
JARLSON...AND YOU
MUST SURVIVE AS
YOUR HIGHEST
SELF.

ARE YOU
READY FOR
THE TASK?



HSSS...



UNNH!



HSSSSS--



GÅ
VEKK!



HVOR...
HVOR ER
JEG...?

YOU'RE IN
THE WORLD OF
REPTILES...



...AND THAT
LITTLE FELLOW
WAS A **FRIEND**
OF MINE.

HSSS.

WHO ARE
YOU...?

CLEARLY,
MY FAME
HASN'T SPREAD
OVERSEAS. I'M THE
COBRA, MISTER
JARLSON.

A PSEUDONYM
UNDER WHICH I SERVE
AT THE PLEASURE
OF A CERTAIN
CORPORATION...



...AND
THEIR **HEAD OF**
SECURITY:

MISTER
BLAKE.

BLAKE...?

YOU **KNOW**
HIM? WELL, HE
KNOWS YOU,
MISTER JARLSON...
AND HE **HATES**
YOU.

SO I COME
TO YOU...**CAP**
IN HAND...

...WITH
A **TEST OF**
SORTS.

CATCH!



EH...?

THE HAT
BELONGS TO A
MAN NAMED ARNOLD
DOURIF.



THE
NIGHT SECURITY
GUARD FOR THIS
ZOO'S REPTILE
EXHIBIT.

HE HAS A WIFE
AND CHILDREN. HE
HAS SEASON TICKETS
FOR THE YANKEES. HE'S
AS INNOCENT AS
ANYONE IN THIS
WORLD.



AND NOW HE'S HANDCUFFED TO AN
EXHIBIT ABOUT THE **HELLBENDER
SALAMANDER**--WHICH, DESPITE
THE NAME, IS QUITE
HARMLESS.

THAT'S WHY
I LEFT IT WHERE
IT WAS.

ANYTHING
THAT **ISN'T**
HARMLESS...



...WELL,
THOSE CREATURES
I LET LOOSE. AS
YOU SAW.

POOR
THING.



IT
WAS INNOCENT
TOO.

YOU'LL HAVE
TO BE MORE
CAREFUL.



BUT THEN, THAT'S ALL PART OF THE CHOICE YOU HAVE TO MAKE.

AFTER ALL, PERHAPS OUR MISTER DOURIF WON'T BE BITTEN OR CONSTRICTED OR OTHERWISE DEVoured. PERHAPS HE'LL BE QUITE SAFE ON HIS OWN.



YOU COULD JUST...WALK AWAY FROM HERE.

LEAVE HIM TO IT.

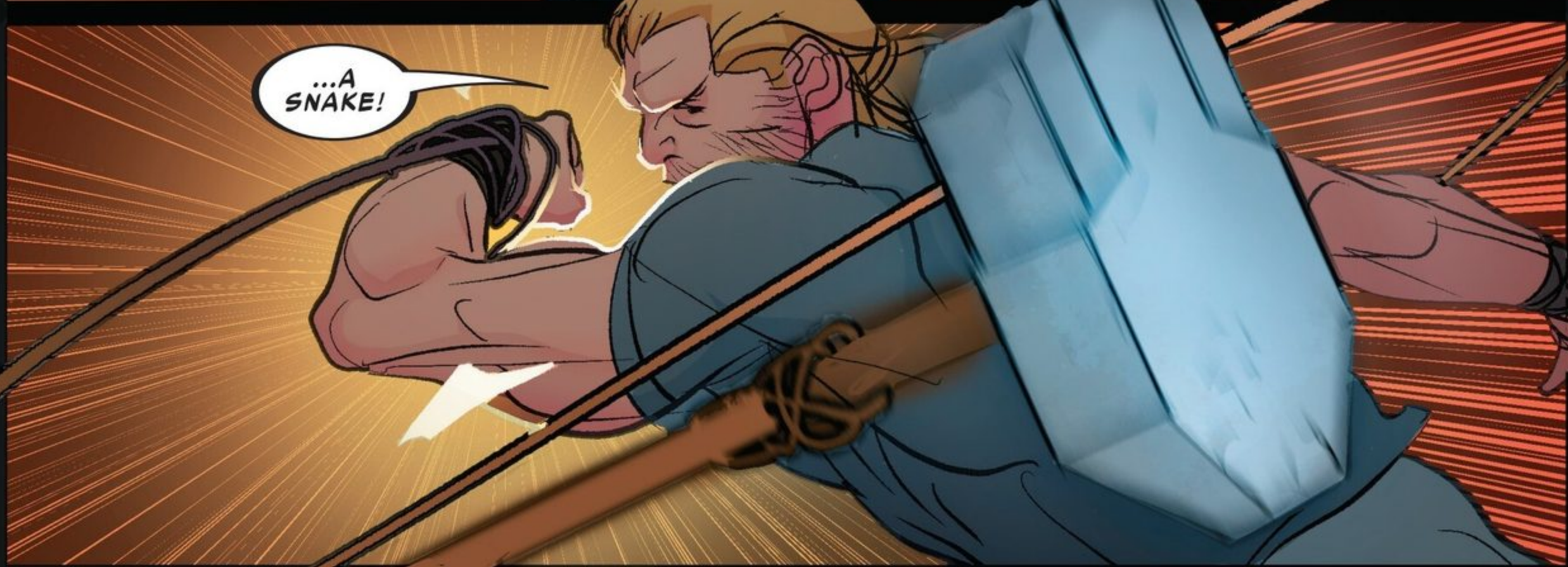


SAVE YOUR OWN SKIN.



... AND WHAT WOULD THAT MAKE ME?

SOMETHING WRETCHED, I THINK...



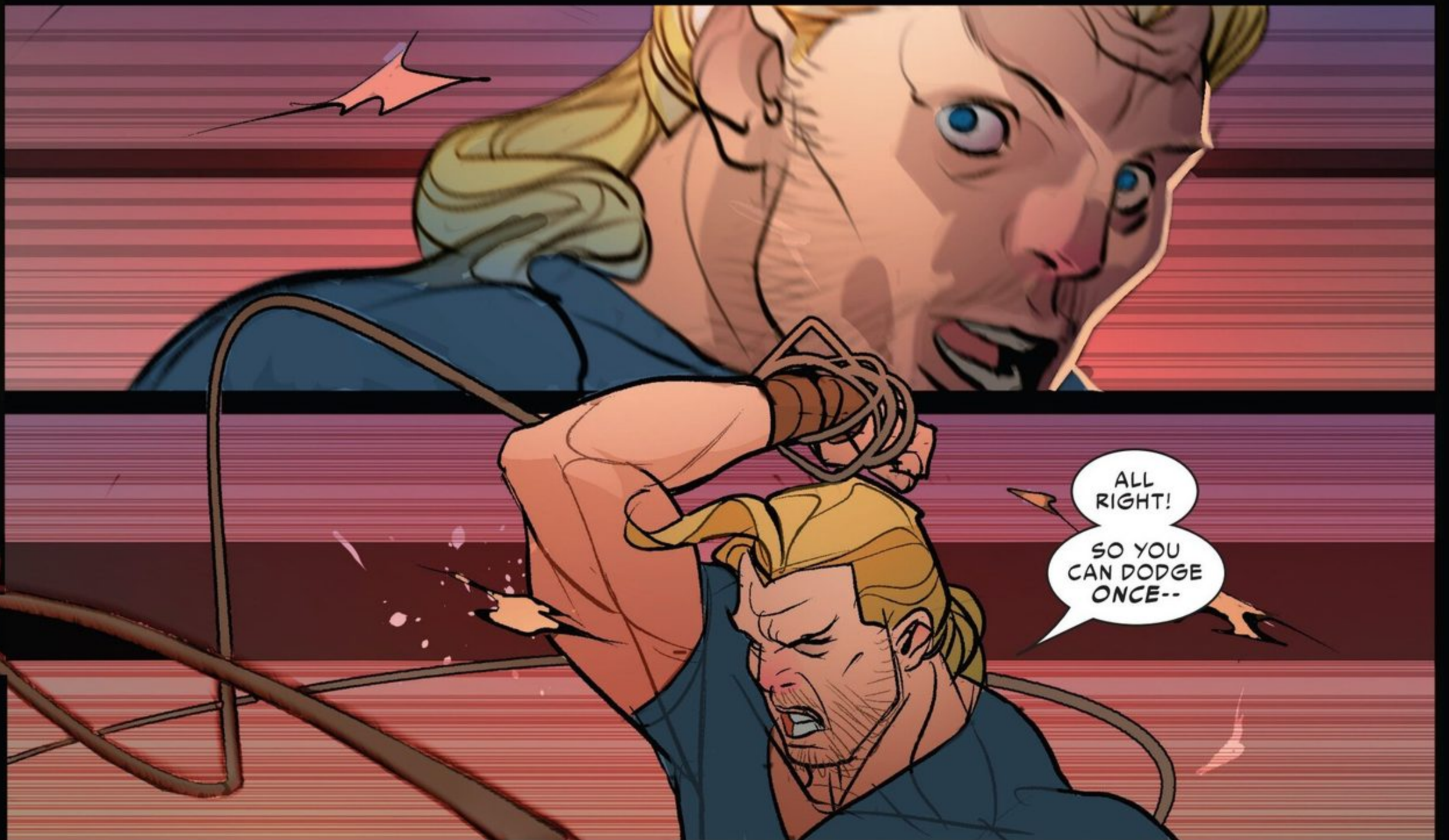
...A SNAKE!



WELL...



...COULD BE WORSE.



ALL RIGHT!
SO YOU CAN DODGE ONCE--



THAP

I CAN DODGE FOREVER.



DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED. YOU'RE IN THE BIG LEAGUES NOW.

AT COBRA SPEED, MY FRIEND...



...YOU'RE THE SLOWEST MOTION.
HOW'S THAT FOR A MIC DROP?



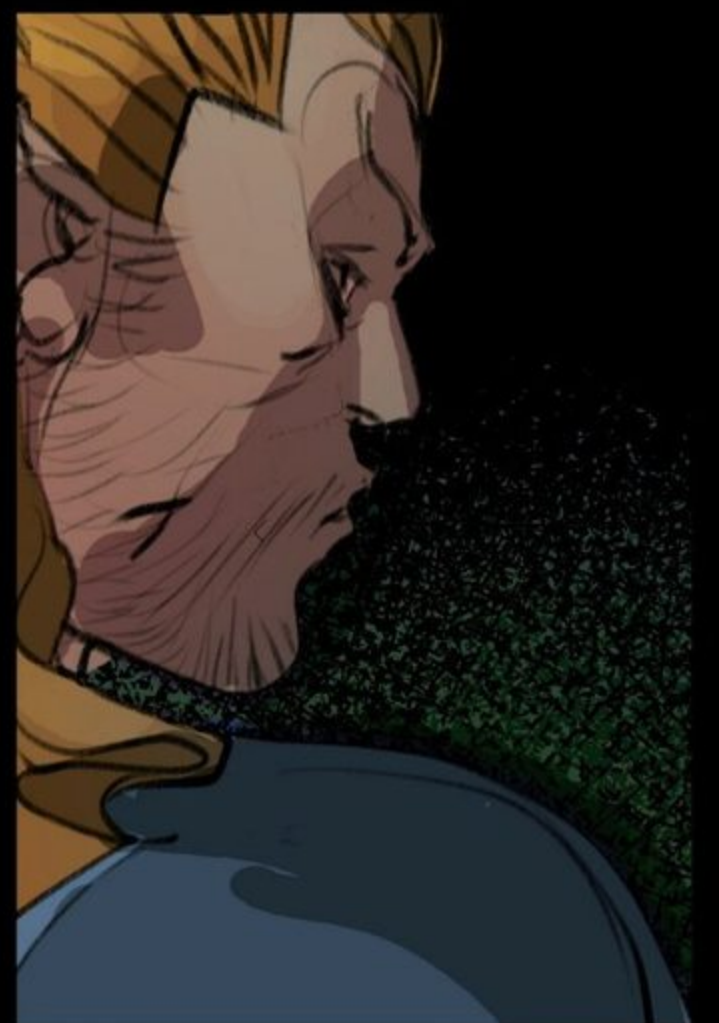
FACTOR IT IN, SIGURD. I'M SLITHERING AROUND HERE TOO, WITH ALL THE OTHER DEADLY CREATURES.
I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T SEE ME COMING AGAIN.



SO MAYBE MAKE THE SMART CHOICE...



FAEN.











HEY!

IS
SOMEONE
THERE?



OH MAN.
OH, THANK
GOD.

LISTEN,
UH...

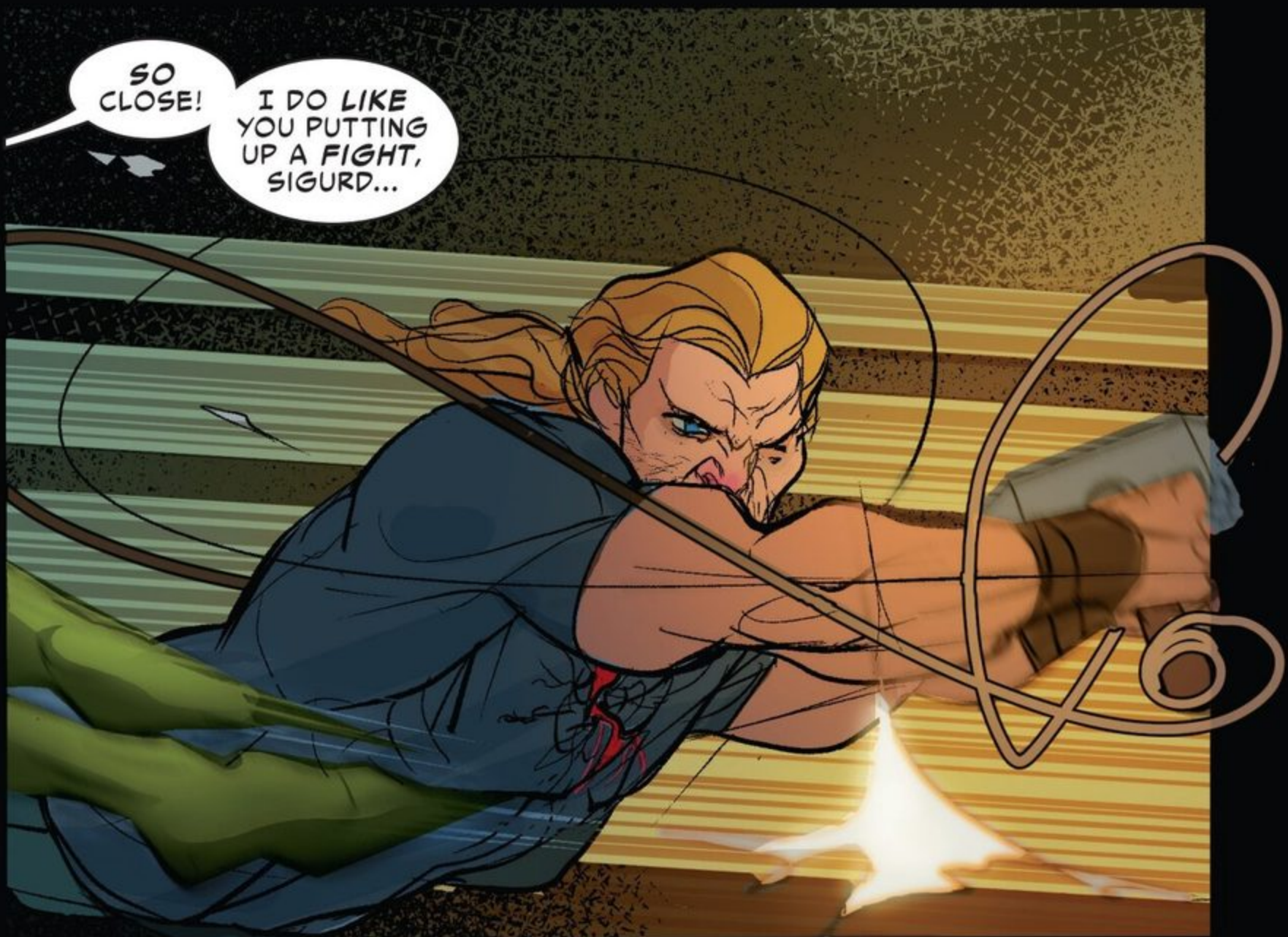


...CAN I
GET A LITTLE
HELP...?

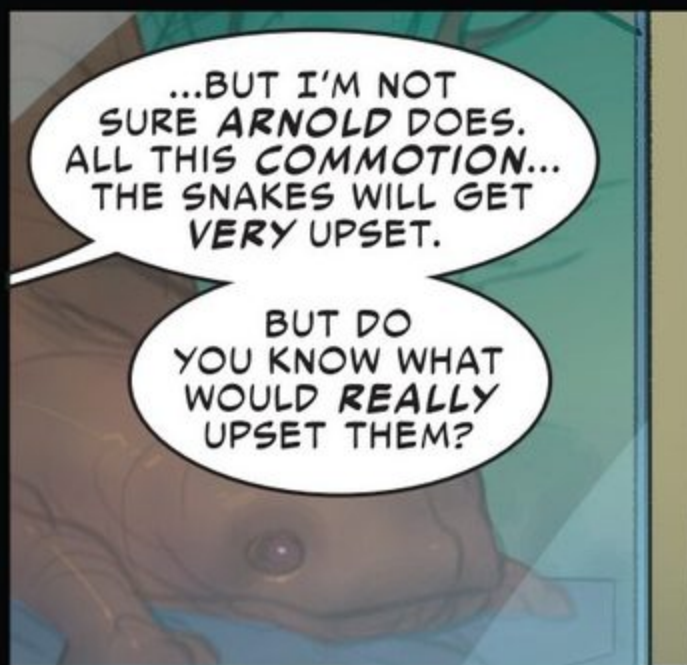




YOU CAN
RUN!
RUN
AWAY!



SO
CLOSE!
I DO LIKE
YOU PUTTING
UP A FIGHT,
SIGURD...



...BUT I'M NOT
SURE ARNOLD DOES.
ALL THIS COMMOTION...
THE SNAKES WILL GET
VERY UPSET.

BUT DO
YOU KNOW WHAT
WOULD **REALLY**
UPSET THEM?



IF
ARNOLD HAD
A COUGHING
FIT.



NO--











WHAT...?

SORRY! YOUR HAMMER'S PROBABLY MORE CONDUCTIVE THAN THE **DOOR HANDLE**. I DON'T KNOW **PHYSICS**.

I MEANT TO SAY, HE WIRED THE **EXITS** UP TO THE **MAINS**...



SO IF I HAD TOUCHED IT...IF I HAD RUN...

YOU'D HAVE FRIED LIKE **BACON**.

LOOK, I'M GONNA CALL THE **COPS**. YOU SHOULD STICK AROUND--



NO. I AM... IN **TROUBLE** WITH THE **POLICE**, I THINK.

WHEN YOU TELL THEM, PLEASE DO NOT MENTION THE **HAMMER**.

YOU SAVED MY **LIFE**, PAL. WHATEVER YOU SAY.

THANKS FOR NOT **RUNNING**.



IF I HAD RUN, I WOULD BE **DEAD**. AND NOT ONLY **DEAD**...BUT MADE **LESSER**.

IS THAT THE **GOAL**?



WHAT IS THIS **GAME** YOU ARE PLAYING, **BLAKE**?

WHAT ARE THE **RULES**...?



TOMORROW'S
PROBLEM.

AND TOMORROW,
I MUST SPEAK TO
JENNY SAPRISTI AS
WELL. I CANNOT PUT HER
IN DANGER--OR THE
OTHERS AT WORK.



I CANNOT
PUT ANYONE
IN--

SIGURD!



KRISTIN?

YOU...YOU
WAITED FOR
ME...?

I WAS
WORRIED. THEY
JUST PUSHED YOU
INTO THAT LIMO LIKE
IT WAS A MAFIA
MOVIE.

AND
I COULDN'T
GO TO THE
COPS...



SO, YEAH,
I JUST WAITED
AND WORRIED
MYSELF SICK.

LORD, YOUR
POOR FACE!
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU
NOW...?

I--I WILL TELL
YOU EVERYTHING,
BUT...IT IS STRANGE,
KRISTIN. IT IS VERY
STRANGE.



I KEEP
TELLING YOU,
SIGURD. IT'S
KRIS.

COME
INSIDE.



HIDE AND SEEK

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NEXT ISSUE:



THE HAVOC OF EDWARD HYDE!

- Sigurd Jarlson is alive and on the run...but he has a weakness his enemies can exploit.
- He has his neighbors, his friends--and maybe more than friends.
- And the man called Mr. Hyde knows it.
- Somewhere in the city, a man with a hammer is on a rescue mission...

**WE WANT YOUR LETTERS! TO SEE THEM ANSWERED BY AL EWING HIMSELF,
WRITE US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, AND BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!**